

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 09433 150729Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----064038 150739Z /16
R 150648Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2421
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T JAKARTA 9433

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: FONMIN MALIK'S FUTURE

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 2903, (B) SINGAPORE 2947

1. TALK THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK WILL BE REPLACED IN CABINET RESHUFFLE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD, AND HIS DEPARTURE APPEARS TO BE ACCEPTED AS FACT BY SOME IN FOREIGN DEPARTMENT. LATEST RUMOR IS THAT MALIK WILL BE ASKED TO BECOME CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT, IN WHICH CASE HE SHOULD NOT RESIGN RECENTLY WON PARLIAMENTARY SEAT, AS HE DID AFTER PREVIOUS

ELECTION. SOUNDINGS REGARDING THIS POSSIBILITY MAY HAVE CAUSED MALIK'S CONCERN REPORTED REFTEL.

2. MALIK'S BAD HEALTH IS REASON MOST OFTEN CITED FOR POSSIBLE CHANGE. THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THIS AS MALIK HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN ON TOP OF MATTERS SINCE HIS SEVERE HEPATITIS ATTACK LAST YEAR. HE HAS SEEMED INCREASINGLY PRONE TO MIX UP HIS FACTS, AND INACCURACIES IN HIS FREQUENT BANTER WITH THE PRESS HAVE BECOME MORE OF A PROBLEM LATELY (ALTHOUGH LOCAL REPORTERS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JAKART 09433 150729Z

HAVE GENEROUSLY OVERLOOKED SOME GAFFES). THIS HAS PERHAPS GIVEN MALIK'S DETRACTORS, INCLUDING MURTOPO, WHOSE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CLOSELY MONITORS THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PERFORMANCE, AN OPENING TO RECOMMEND HIS REMOVAL.

3. THE PROBLEM, OF COURSE, IS FINDING A REPLACEMENT WITH

ANYWHERE NEAR MALIK'S INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL STATURE. DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN, WHO OFTEN ACTS AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN MALIK'S ABSENCE, IS SAID TO BE INTERESTED IN THE JOB, BUT HE HAS LITTLE MORE THAN FAITHFUL SERVICE TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO TO RECOMMEND HIM. AMBASSADOR TO THE US RESMIN NURJADIN, ALSO MENTIONED AS A POSSIBILITY, IS AN ABLER CANDIDATE BUT LACKS POLITICAL PROMINENCE HERE AND ABROAD. MURTOPO'S SELF-PROMOTION FOR THIS AND INTERIOR MINISTRY SLOTS IS LEGEND, ALTHOUGH HE PRIVATELY DENIES SUCH AMBITIONS. THE BELIEF (AND HOPE) OF MOST OF OUR SOURCES IS THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT WANT THIS TRUSTED BUT VERY UNPOPULAR AIDE IN SUCH A PROMINENT PUBLIC POSITION, AND SUHARTO HAS IN THE PAST CLIPPED MURTOPO'S WINGS WHEN HE HAS SOARED TOO HIGH.

4. IN VIEW OF REPLACEMENT PROBLEM, THE PRESIDENT MAY

WELL POSTPONE A FINAL DECISION ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO UNTIL HIS REELECTION NEXT MARCH OR AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEW PARLIAMENT IS INSTALLED IN OCTOBER.
NEWSOM

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JAKART09433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770252-0292
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770754/aaaabuhr.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f50c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 SINGAPORE 2903, 77 SINGAPORE 2947
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1851388
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN MALIK'S FUTURE
TAGS: PINT, ID, (MALIK, ADAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f50c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009